

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 IO-13 /093 W
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R 110609Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4441
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7993

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR IR
SUBJ: RUMORED AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED

REF TEHRAN 6224

1. THE FOLLOWING THREE CAREER DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN
PRESENTED TO THE SHAH BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY,
A PROCEDURE WHICH CONFIRMS THEIR LONG-RUMORED (REFTEL)
AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS.

2. FIRST MENTIONED FIVE MONTHS AGO, KHOSROW AKMAL'S
APPOINTMENT AS GOI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, WITH
ACCREDITATION TO NEW ZEALAND, HAS FINALLY BEEN ANNOUNCED
OFFICIALLY. AKMAL, 43, MOST RECENTLY HELD THE SENIOR
DEPUTY POSITION IN THE MINISTRY OF COURT, UNDER HIS
FATHER-IN-LAW HORMOZ GHARIB, FORMER GRAND MASTER OF
CEREMONIES WHO HIMSELF WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR
TO ITALY. AKMAL, WHO HAS A DOCTORATE IN LAW FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN, JOINED THE MFA IN 1958 AND
SERVED IN THE PASSPORT, EASTERN EUROPE, AND PROTOCOL
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DIVISIONS. HE ALSO SERVED ABROAD IN BERN AND WAS
COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON UNTIL
THE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI WHO HAD HIM TRANS-
FERRED BACK TO TEHRAN. FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH,
AKMAL IS CONSIDERED BY EMBOFFS TO BE STATUS CONSCIOUS
AND TO TAKE HIMSELF VERY SERIOUSLY, TENDING TO SPEAK
AUTHORITATIVELY EVEN WHEN HE DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE

FACTS AT HAND.

3. HOOSHANG BATMANGLIDJ, 49, NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY, WAS BORN IN ANKARA AND IS A GRADUATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM LONDON UNIVERSITY. HE SPENT ABOUT A YEAR IN BAGHDAD WORKING ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE BAGHDAD PACT AND, AFTER THE IRAQI REVOLUTION IN 1958, WENT TO ANKARA WHERE HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTO ECONOMIC DIVISION UNTIL 1963. HE HEADED THE RCD DEPARTMENT IN THE MFA AND WAS MOST RECENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HE AND HIS WIFE, TOURAN, SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH AND EXCELLENT FRENCH. HE IS BRIGHT, WELL INFORMED AND AMBITIOUS AND HAS BEEN A USEFUL CONTACT OVER THE YEARS TO A SERIES OF EMBOFFS. BATMANGLIDJ (HIS PREFERRED SPELLING) IS THE SUBJECT OF A BIOGRAPHIC REPORT PREPARED IN MAY 1975 BY INR/OIL/B.

4. MANOUCHEHR AZIMA, 58, AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, WAS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS PRIOR TO HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT. HE HAS A DOCTORATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARTI, HAS SERVED IN MFA FOR 33 YEARS, AND IS CONSIDERED ONE OF IRAN'S MOST SENIOR DIPLOMATS. DURING HIS EARLY DIPLOMATIC CAREER HE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES BUT HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS SERVICE IN FRANCE, WITH TOURS IN ITALY AND EGYPT. HE WAS MINISTER IN PARIS IN THE MID-60'S
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AND AMBASSADOR TO GREECE 1966-70. FROM 1971 TO 1974 HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS PRIOR TO BEING NAMED TO THE EUROPE/AMERICA POSITION. KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF EMBOFFS, AZIMA IS NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE. HE IS AFFABLE AND PLEASANT BUT NOT A MAN OF DECISION. HIS FRENCH IS VERY FLUENT, HIS ENGLISH RATHER SKETCHY. HIS WIFE, WHO SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, IS SOMEWHAT MORE OUTGOING.
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